

TIMES AND TRAILS

People, Projects and Priorities at Environment and Conservation

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July 2008

State Natural Area Named in Honor of Conservationist John Noel

Under dark skies, an intrepid group gathered in Hickman County on Friday, June 13 to celebrate the grand opening of the John H. Noel State Natural Area at Bon Aqua. Elected officials, area conservation leaders, interested citizens and various agency staff ignored inclement weather and interstate bottlenecks to be part of an event to recognize this unique natural area and John Noel, a long-time environmentalist whose advocacy was instrumental in the area's preservation. Sponsored by Senator Doug Jackson, a resolution was passed by the 150th General Assembly to honor Noel by naming the 35-acre state natural area in his honor. A Williamson County businessman, Noel rescued the

Continued next page



(l - r) Representative David Shepard, John H. Noel, Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke, Representative John Tidwell and Senator Doug Jackson unveil new sign for the John Noel State Natural Area at Bon Aqua during public opening on June 13.

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Voluntary Buyout Program Resources are Available for State Employees

The Voluntary Buyout Program Call Center is open, and the VBP Web site is up. Information sessions have been held across the state for eligible employees to learn more and ask questions about the VBP. You can find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions or watch a video about the VBP on the State Web site at www.TN.gov. Click on the gold button on the

home page that says "Voluntary Buyout Program." Frequently Asked Questions are updated often. The VBP Call Center is available at (615) 253-9980 or toll free 1-866-252-7954 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central time Monday through Friday or 9 a.m. to noon Central time on Saturday. You may also email your questions to Voluntary.Buyout@tn.gov.

State Natural Area continued

property in January 2006 from timber harvest and residential development by purchasing it for \$275,000 with personal funds. The property was appraised, and the Department of Environment and Conservation determined the massive “old growth” white oak forest, cave system and nearby historic springs qualified the Bon Aqua Woods site for acquisition and use as a state natural area. After financing through the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund and other sources, the state of Tennessee purchased Bon Aqua Woods from Noel for \$225,000 in 2007 and made it an official state natural area. In addition to Noel’s initial purchase, his generous gift of \$50,000 covered the cost of the final purchase price. “Today’s event is another boots on the ground example of effective conservation partnerships where the public benefits,” said Commissioner Jim Fyke. “Working in good faith, each partner – public and private – contributed to protecting these exceptional oak trees and this historical location for the entire community.” More information on the John Noel State Natural Area at Bon Aqua is available on the Division of Natural Areas Web page.



(l - r) Forrest Evans, Division of Natural Areas; John Noel; Kevin Fitch, Division of Natural Areas; and Reggie Reeves, Division of Natural Areas in front of new sign posted for John Noel State Natural Area at Bon Aqua. Evans and Fitch led the development of a new hiking trail and small parking area at the site.

State Revolving Fund Helps Utility District Meet Customer Needs

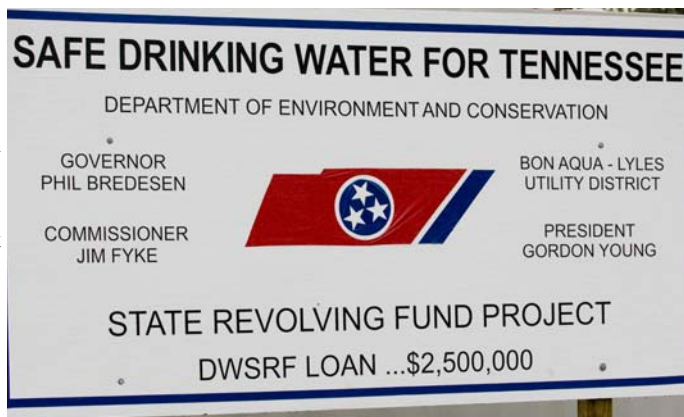
Bon Aqua-Lyles Utility District in Hickman County received a \$2.5 million loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to install water transmission lines and a 900 gallons per minute booster pump station in order to purchase supplemental water from the Water Authority of Dickson County.

This project will enable the Utility District to provide an adequate amount of safe, reliable drinking water to its customers without increasing the plant’s existing 1.3 million gallons per day capacity and to maintain compliance with capacity requirements and finished water turbidity limits.

This project is the second phase of a larger \$5 million package. Plans and specifications have been approved for the Phase I water

treatment plant improvements, and construction should begin on Phase I next month. By making the decision to purchase supplemental water

from the Water Authority of Dickson County rather than withdraw more water from the Piney River, the projects are protective of the river as well as being protective of public health. “I am pleased our SRF program is supporting local utility districts and regional resource



planning with projects like these for Bon Aqua-Lyles,” said Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. “This project is a real-world complement to the work being done by members of the department’s Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee.” Click here to read about the most recent SRF loans.

Two New Schools Become TP3 Performers

Four years ago, Centennial High School in Williamson County, earned the TP3 Performer Green Flag in recognition of their efforts to improve the school's environmental footprint. The Office of Environmental Assistance is pleased to announce that two new schools achieved Performer level in the TP3 Green Schools Program in May 2008 – David Lipscomb Elementary, a private school serving PreK-5 in Nashville, and Poplar Grove School, serving K-8 in the Franklin Special School District.

Achieving Performer is no small feat. Like other members in the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership, students conduct an environmental evaluation of their buildings and grounds and develop a plan with projects in five areas: energy, solid waste (reduce, re-use, recycle), clean air, land and water conservation, and hazardous materials. Each project involves students whenever possible, makes measurable improvements, and educates students about the issue. When each project is completed, the details are described and measurable results are documented in a Success Story. Performers also involve their communities in green activities, such as recycling,

tree-planting, litter pick-ups, stream monitoring, and much more. Mentoring others about TP3 and educating them about pollution prevention principles are final important criteria for Performers.

All of the school's documents, photos, and press releases are collected in an Environmental Notebook that is reviewed by the Performer Level Review Panel, a diverse group of seven members appointed by the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Roundtable. Representatives of environmental groups, industry, higher education, and government make up the panel. Staff from Poplar Grove and David Lipscomb made presentations to the Review Panel on May 12, and the Panel deemed both schools worthy of flying the TP3 Green Flag.

"We are so impressed with what Lipscomb and Poplar Grove are doing to improve their school operations and to increase environmental education," said Cynthia Rohrbach, Green Schools Program Coordinator. "Interest in the Green Schools Program has skyrocketed this year. This is a good sign for Tennessee as our future citizens are learning about solutions to environmental challenges."



Vanessa Garcia, principal of the elementary grades, Curtis Hopper, coordinator of the TP3 program, Elaine Boyd, TDEC Strategic Planning, and Lee Kirkpatrick, principal of the middle grades, display the TP3 flag and Performer certificate at Poplar Grove School.



Staff and kindergarteners raise the TP3 flag following the presentation ceremony at David Lipscomb Elementary School.

To read about other success stories and how you can become a performer visit the TP3 Web site.

News on Project Edison

The Human Capital Management modules for Project Edison's Phase One, including Payroll, Benefits, HR, Time and Leave, and Enterprise Learning Management, continue to move toward a tentative Go-Live date of October 1, 2008. Project managers feel positive about current testing, and Power User training has resumed. More information about the Go-Live schedule should be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, project managers encourage agency Liaisons, Agency Implementation Teams, Power Users, Training Coordinators and other staff members to continue with the data gathering assignments and other Edison tasks. Current information on Edison is available on the Intranet at <http://intranet.state.tn.us/erp/> or click here for the most recent Edison newsletter.



Camp Crockett Gives Students a Hands-on Skill Building Experience

Eager students had the opportunity for a true hands-on experience with pioneer and Native American skills and crafts at the week-long Camp Crockett June 23-27 at **Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park**. "This was our first year doing a day camp program like this," said Park Ranger Dawn Coleman. "We had a good turnout, and I expect Camp Crockett to grow next year as the community realizes this is a great opportunity to get personally involved with pioneer and Native American skills and crafts." Each day featured focus topics and specific techniques for camp participants to learn and use. From pioneer cooking to moccasin making to blacksmithing, expert instructors led students through lessons and production exercises that resulted in finished goods. Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park is also looking forward to hosting the biennial reunion of the Direct Descendents and Kinfolk of David Crockett on June 12 and annual Crockett Days celebration on August 16-17.



A student improves bow work under a watchful eye.

Second Annual Louie Bluie Music and Arts Festival at Cove Lake is a Hit

More than 2,000 visitors attended the Louie Bluie Music and Arts Festival on June 14 at **Cove Lake State Park** to celebrate the life and community musical heritage of Howard Armstrong, an extraordinary African-American string musician who was born and raised in LaFollette. **Cumberland Trail State Park** co-sponsored the Louie Bluie Festival at Cove Lake as a feature of the Cumberland Trail Music Heritage Project that is connecting trail users, trail volunteers and local residents through music heritage. "I am pleased to see growing interest among all types of people in learning about the music and culture of this unique region," said Bob Fulcher, Cumberland Trail State Park Manager and host of the Cumberland Trail radio show on WDVX-FM.



Impromptu jam breaks out at Louie Bluie.

As part of this free day of local music, crafts, food and storytelling, the Cumberland Trail hosted and programmed a four hour segment on the main stage that showcased an array of musical talent from along the eleven county trail corridor. This included a reunion of the Pinnacle Mountain Boys, a celebrated bluegrass group from Claiborne County who had not performed together in 42 years. It also featured a revival of the Old LaFollette Fiddler's Convention, a major contest during the early part of the 20th century that featured a dozen of the finest fiddlers from the region. Many festival goers were thrilled to see a performance by Earl T. Bridgman, the last bluesman from the Sequatchie Valley.

Cove Lake was busy throughout the day as the park hosted its 10th annual 5K Run with more than 220 participants in all age groups. Earlier that Saturday, The Friends of Cove Lake also presented the park with a projector and lap top computer to assist with programming.

Record Number Attend Rhododendron Festival at Roan Mountain State Park

The 62nd annual Rhododendron Festival drew more than 22,000 visitors to **Roan Mountain State Park** on June 20-21. Vendors set up booths to show off their talents in everything from candy making to copper smithing to woodworking. Groups featuring bluegrass, country and gospel music performed at the amphitheater throughout the festival. Rhododendron blazes on the mountain were in full bloom and once again were stars of the show. "All of our hard work on event preparation and execution paid off with a record-crowd this year," said Pat Gagan, Park Ranger. "We are looking forward to having an even bigger gathering for the 63rd Rhododendron Festival that will be held June 20 and 21 in 2009."



Department Recognizes Environmental Achievers with 2008 Governor's Awards



2008 Governor's Award winners were honored with a special recognition in Nashville.

More than 200 people gathered for the 22nd Annual Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville on June 20. Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan was the featured speaker for the event and presented the winners with the award's unique trophy made from 100 percent recycled glass. This year the program received more than 115 nominations in 14 categories. A panel of judges representing various professions from across the state reviewed, evaluated and recommended the best performers based on specific criteria. More information on the 2008 winners and the Governor's Awards is available at www.tn.gov/environment/awards.

Excellence in Agriculture and Forestry Robert Thompson Conservation Farm in Niota, McMinn County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Robert Thompson, and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

Robert Thompson's 589-acre, 200 beef cattle farm in McMinn County practices conservation efforts along the Oostanaula Creek and Malone Springs in East Tennessee. These practices include extensive livestock exclusion fencing (4,685 feet), alternative water tanks (six with 6,000 feet of pipeline), and the implementation of rotational grazing. These efforts have improved the health of the cattle herd and water quality. Water quality improvements stem from the reduction of sediment, which can occur when cattle travel over stream banks to reach water, as well as from the decreased amount of livestock waste reaching the stream.

Excellence in Aquatic Resource Preservation Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute – Saving the Sturgeon



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Dr. Anna George, Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute Director; and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

In 2007, *Saving the Sturgeon* reached several new milestones. More than 60,000 Lake Sturgeon were released into the Tennessee River Watershed and monitored as far south as Alabama. New partners in the sturgeon conservation effort include Knoxville Girl Scout troops, East Tennessee fishermen, and Gap Creek Elementary classes. Educational efforts were expanded through these partnerships by distributing wallet-size educational cards to fishermen at time of licensing, developing a coloring book for Grades K-2 about Lake Sturgeon conservation efforts, and by engaging students to help with sturgeon releases near their school. The Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute also began monitoring released sturgeon with sonic tags and using an endoscope and anesthesia vaporizer to determine gender of released fish to enhance reproductive success.

Excellence in Building Green Metro Nashville Parks “Green” Nature Centers, Davidson County



(l-r) Nancy Dorman; Friends of Beaman Park; Gwen Griffith, Cumberland River Compact; Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Sandy Bivens, Metro Parks Nature Centers Superintendent; Denise Weyer; Shelby Bottoms Nature Center; Vera Vollbrecht, Warner Park Nature Center; Tim Netsch, Metro Parks Superintendent Planning; LinnAnn Welch, Bells Bend Nature Center; Bob Parrish, Metro Parks Natural Resource Management; Lori Munkeboe; Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation developed and built three new nature centers that include sustainable building and design techniques – Shelby Bottoms Greenway, Beaman Park and Bells Bend Park. There were more than 25 sustainable features designed into each center focusing on site sustainability, water use efficiency, energy consumption, use of materials and resources, indoor air quality and design innovation. Some features include a green roof, rain-chains, rain catch basins, solar shades, electricity generation utilizing photovoltaic cells, geothermal heat pumps and pervious concrete sidewalks.

Excellence in Energy Leadership Cleveland State Community College, Bradley County



(l-r) Dr. Frank McKenzie, Dean of Business and Technology Department; Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Allan Gentry, Technology Department Chair and Program Administrator; Bob Lantz, Technology Program Originator; Dr. Carl Hite, President and Lori Munkeboe; Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

Cleveland State Community College's existing construction technology program was enhanced to include a focus on alternative and renewable energy sources, as well as the techniques and technologies for energy efficient construction. The project focuses on four areas: new curriculum, secondary school (high school) recruiting, workshops and seminars, and practical demonstration items. This enhanced program resulted in a new workforce development certificate called the Zero Energy Housing Certificate; six new or revised courses; and more than 6,000 individuals receiving energy efficient construction materials in the classroom, public meetings and seminars. So far, more than 122 students have completed more than 300 community college courses related to the energy efficient construction field at Cleveland State Community College.

Photos: (l) The Nature Center at Beaman Park in Joelton, (m) Visitors to Shelby Bottoms nature center view the newly planted green roof. (r) The new Shelby Bottoms Nature Center hosts a conservation group's monthly meeting.



Excellence in Environmental and Education Outreach Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative, Davidson County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Jennifer Barrie, Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative Director, and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative was created to foster an energy conservation ethic among young people. Students are engaged in an interactive program that trains them to become energy leaders in their homes, schools and communities. The program targets students in grades 4-12. It is currently being implemented in Nashville schools. To date, the Youth Initiative has directly presented to more than 5,000 students in 30 schools, trained 1,700 students to conduct home energy assessments, conducted five teacher training workshops, registered 500 students on the Web site, and disseminated the curriculum to more than 850 educators across the United States.

Excellence in Greenways and Trails Peterson Lake Nature Area – Town of Collierville, Shelby County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Vice Mayor Maureen Fraser, Town of Collierville; Greg Clark, Collierville Parks and Recreation Director; Lori Munkeboe; Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance; Bob Richards, TDEC Greenways and Trails Coordinator.

The Peterson Lake Nature Area and Boardwalk contains 70 acres of Wolf River bottomland forest and natural wetlands and includes a 0.7 mile section of boardwalk that provides new, exciting recreational and educational opportunities for the Collierville community. The boardwalk is one component of the five-mile Wolf River Wildlife Corridor and a major destination within the Collierville Greenbelt System. It includes interpretive panels, strategically placed to educate the public about the important role of each environmental element found along the pathway.

Below left and middle: Peterson Lake boardwalk alignment was built to minimize impact to the site. Bottom right: Pedestrian bridge over substantial water slough in the natural area.



Excellence in Green Schools – K-12 The Harpeth Hall School, Davidson County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Anne King, Harpeth Hall Director of Operations, and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

The Harpeth Hall School formed a campus-wide Environmental Stewardship Committee in 2006 to look broadly at the school's environmental practices to explore more green initiatives, expand existing programs, and make Harpeth Hall a leader for environmental sustainability among educational facilities. Some of the 2007-2008 initiatives include adding more recycle bins on campus; eliminating plastic take-out containers and styrofoam cups and replacing them with recyclable paper containers; serving locally grown fruits and vegetables in the dining hall; using green cleaning products; installing bike racks on campus; installing operable windows for fresh air; using bamboo flooring and linoleum when renovating; and using native plants on campus. The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council certified Harpeth Hall in 2007 as an arboretum.

Excellence in Green Schools – Higher Education Vanderbilt University - The Commons, Davidson County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Dr. Frank Weislo, Dean of The Commons, and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

The Commons Project consists of five newly constructed residence houses, five renovated residence houses, and the Commons Center on Vanderbilt's Peabody campus. The Commons is the foundation of Vanderbilt University's College Halls System, a residential college program. This project has become a model for collaborative environmental initiatives of all types and has made The Commons a showcase of sustainability on a college campus. LEED certification of new and renovated buildings, energy-saving building features, waste reduction and recycling programs, use of alternative fuels, and selection of recycled and renewable materials are incorporated into every aspect of life at The Commons. Exposing all of Vanderbilt's first-year students to the sustainable features of The Commons will help disseminate these concepts, wherever these students go, for decades to come.



(l) Harold Madison with TDEC's Office of Environmental Assistance greets Harold Masengil from the Johns Manville plant in Etowah.

(r) Gary and Patti Williams read about achievements of U.S. Fence, winner of the 2008 Award for Excellence in Solid Waste Reduction.

Excellence in Hazardous Waste Reduction Johns Manville facility in Etowah, McMinn County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Eusebio Roman, Etowah Plant Manager; and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.



Johns Manville's plant in Etowah employs 250 people and supplies fiber glass for a variety of products, including residential shingles. In 2007, the Etowah plant opened a new state-of-the-art, high-speed line to produce non-woven glass mat. The company's new glass furnaces have state-of-the-art abatement systems to remove particulates and sulfur dioxide from the discharge stream. Recognizing the potential reuse and waste reduction from this effective capture of original materials, the Etowah plant launched an engineering project to reuse this captured material as part of their glass making recipe. The effective reuse of the raw material reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated at the site and decreased the overall cost of manufacturing. In 2006, the Etowah plant generated 840,820 pounds of this material, which was shipped off-site and disposed as a hazardous waste. Reuse began in February 2007 and that year the Etowah plant shipped only 180,720 pounds of hazardous waste for disposal – a 79 percent reduction.

(l) An aerial view of the Etowah plant.

Excellence in Natural Heritage Conservation Tennessee's Wild Side – Weekly Outdoor Adventure TV Program



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Alan Griggs, Wild Side Producer and Guide; and Office of Environmental Assistance Director Lori Munkeboe.

Tennessee's Wild Side is a weekly outdoor adventure television program supported by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and The Nature Conservancy, produced by The Renaissance Center, and broadcast statewide by numerous public television stations. In 2007, Alan Griggs, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Natural Areas, produced several Wild Side programs highlighting species and lands of high conservation significance. *Tennessee's Wild Side* has produced more than 130 shows highlighting conservation and the environment.

(l-r) Hummingbirds flock to food; a Painted Snake Coiled Forest Snail found only in Franklin County; a Bog Turtle.



Excellence in Parks and Recreation Bell Buckle Park, Bedford County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Mayor Dennis Webb, Town of Bell Buckle; Jenny Hunt, Bell Buckle Park Chairman; Florence Hall, Bell Buckle Park Board member; Larry Lowman, Bell Buckle Park Board member; Lori Munkeboe, Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

The Bell Buckle Park is an approximately 10-acre park developed in the heart of historic Bell Buckle. The park was created by renovating the old Bell Buckle Elementary School property along Bell Buckle Creek and the old Nashville Chattanooga Railroad line. This area is prone to flooding and the project reclaimed the property by constructing a half mile asphalt walking path, playground, picnic pavilion, and a Poets Garden. There are also plans for a future amphitheater. Bell Buckle is the smallest city in Tennessee to have achieved Tree City USA status from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Excellence in Pollution Prevention Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire Warren Plant, Warren County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Sean Fisher; Environmental Manager, Ron Brooks; Plant Manager, Muneer Chowdhury; Facilities Manager, Vern Duncan; Plant Engineer, Lori Munkeboe; Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire installed new pollution reducing technologies at its Warren County facility which benefit the environment and the budget. Steps to prevent pollution at the plant include the use of non-polluting hydrogen fuel cells in automated vehicles inside the plant, a reduction in the amount of mercury lighting used in the facility and water-conserving fixtures in restrooms. The facility also provided free air compressors throughout the community so people could keep their vehicle's tires appropriately filled in order to optimize fuel economy and reduce air pollution. Personnel from the Warren County facility are involved in mentoring other facilities across other Bridgestone companies in the use of these new technologies.



The Bell Buckle Park picnic pavilion after renovations.



Youngsters enjoying the new Bell Buckle Park playground.



Bridgestone-Firestone employee uses one of the free air compressors. Correct air pressure not only is a safety issue, it saves on fuel.

Excellence in Solid Waste Reduction U.S. Fence facility in Bulls Gap, Hawkins County



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; Michael Jarnigan, Environmental Health & Safety Manager; Jayme Whittemore, Inventory Control Lead; Jeremy Golden, Production Manager; Matt Urnick, Accounting Clerk; Dean Duva, Health, Safety & Environmental Coordinator; Wayne Lucas, Purchasing Specialist; James Carico, Commodities Buyer; Lori Munkeboe, Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

U.S. Fence is a leader in PVC and wood fencing and outdoor rail design and employs more than 500 people at its location in Bulls Gap. The Hawkins County facility recently completed a major expansion to its physical plant and also made significant investments in its manufacturing operations. As production continued to grow, plant officials recognized their waste stream was increasing too. U.S. Fence was disposing of approximately 100,000 cubic yards of solid waste annually, most of which could have been recycled. The company instituted new waste reduction and recycling processes and made informational signs, purchased collection bins and painted floors to reinforce the new process. More than a year into the comprehensive waste reduction and recycling program, the Bulls Gap plant is saving more than \$450,000 annually through reduced tipping fees and offsetting revenues generated from recycling plastic, cardboard and PVC remnant materials.

Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan; John Noel, Lori Munkeboe; Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.
(below) John and hybrid car.

The Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has devoted a lifetime of exemplary service to environmental protection or conservation stewardship in Tennessee. The 2008 winner is John H. Noel, III of Franklin. "For almost four decades, John has been a thoughtful, effective advocate for Tennessee's natural, cultural and historic resources," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. "From policy to persuasion to procuring funds for conservation, John has been personally involved at levels that have taken him from the creek to the capitol." While this honors a lifetime's work, it also recognizes John still has plenty on his plate. John is currently Board Chairman of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and an active board member for the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters and The Climate Institute. John is also presently serving as a member of the Governor's Energy Policy Task Force.

Previous winners of the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award include champions of conservation in Tennessee: Dr. Ruth Neff, Dr. Elsie Quartermann, Shirley Caldwell-Patterson, Gary Myers, Dr. David Etnier, Ann Tidwell, Bob Brown, Mack Pritchard, Happy Birdsong and last year's winner Bertha Chrietberg.



Commissioner's Exceptional Partner Award Jimmy Palmer – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4



(l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Jimmy Palmer, Regional Manager, EPA Region 4; Lori Munkeboe, Director of the Office of Environmental Assistance.

The Commissioner's Exceptional Partner Award went to Jimmy Palmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator for Region 4. With its eight southern states, Region 4 is the EPA's largest and fastest growing region and presents the most challenging set of issues for any Regional Administrator in the nation. This award recognizes Jimmy Palmer's exemplary achievements and the productive federal-state relationships he created through effective communication, coordination and leadership while serving as the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator for the southeastern United States. "Human health and environmental quality in Tennessee have been improved because of Jimmy Palmer's outstanding contributions and service as EPA Regional Administrator," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.

Tennessee State Parks Celebrate Nation's Birthday with Fourth of July Activities

Celebrate our nation's birthday with a variety of **Independence Day** activities and popular **camping** opportunities at Tennessee State Parks. See the colors of 1776 raised over Fort Watauga at Sycamore Shoals or set out on a family camping adventure to Natchez Trace. The good nature and meaningful history of Tennessee State Parks is ready for you during this July Fourth holiday.

Tennessee State Parks Interpretive Specialist David Haggard with an American bald eagle.



Jim Haynes Retires as Division of Remediation Director; Andy Binford Named Acting Director

Jim Haynes retired from state service as Director of the Division of Remediation on June 30. For more than 37 years, Jim held a variety of leadership positions while also sharing his wisdom and unique sense of humor. Andy Binford has agreed to serve as Acting Director for the Division of Remediation during the search for a new director. Andy has been with Environment and Conservation for approximately 19 years and has served as the division's Assistant Director for 5 years. His knowledge of environmental investigation and clean-up has helped the division successfully move forward with the repair of environmental damage at hazardous substance sites across the state. Andy's abilities are well respected among his peers within the department, at EPA and within the environmental consulting community. "We are thankful for Jim's outstanding service to the Division of Remediation and to the department," said Chuck Head, the Bureau of Environment's Senior Director for Land Resources. "I am confident Andy and division staff will continue to follow the direction set by Jim Haynes toward effective environmental clean-up using a practical and reasonable approach."



Betty and Jim Haynes during a department gathering honoring Jim's public service to the citizens of Tennessee.

Department Celebrates Jim Haynes Retirement After 37 Years of Public Service



Staff recently gathered to honor Jim Haynes upon his retirement from Remediation, following more than 37 years of public service with Environment and Conservation. (l-r) Vince Antonacci, Eric Flowers, Teresa Lewis, John Weakley, Nancy Boisvert, Alison Buford, Bob Powell, Jim Gilbert, Steve Goins, Betty Haynes, Jim Haynes, Lamar Bradley, Lee Keck, LaRose Dean, Jim Morrison, Larry Bunting, and Sherry Wang.

July Service Anniversaries

5 Years

Kathy Barnard, Big Ridge State Park
Willie Frazier, Booker T. State Park
Lucinda Hamby, Norris Dam State Park
Jason Layne, South Cumberland, State Park
Phil Petrie, Jr., Fleming Training Center
Preston Pierce, Johnson City EFO, Air Pollution Control
Brian Simmons, Fall Creek Falls State Park
Linda Street, Henry Horton State Park
Jeff Smithson, Nashville EFO, Underground Storage Tanks

10 Years

Jim Gilbert, Remediation
Randy Hoffmeister, Oak Ridge, Energy Oversight
William Kinton, Fort Loudoun State Park
Victoria Rowlett, Paris Landing State Park
Jerry Shoemaker, Bureau of Environment
Roland Young, Pickwick Landing State Park

15 years

Bobby DePriest, Jackson EFO, Water Supply
David Irvine, Nashville EFO, Water Pollution Control
Mike Kelley, Chattanooga EFO, Water Pollution Control
Angela Martin, Nashville EFO, Environment

Lyndia McGee, Harrison Bay State Park
Gerry Middleton, Oakridge, Energy Oversight
Linda Rigsby, Columbia EFO
Carolyn Sekoral, Radiological Health
Jimmy Smith, Nashville EFO, Water Pollution Control

20 Years

Nancy Farmer, Cedars of Lebanon State Park
Janice Lea, Fiscal Services
Shirley Thornton, Fiscal Services

25 Years

Jerry Tipton, South Cumberland State Park

30 Years

Hari Akunuri, Water Pollution Control
Glenn Birdwell, Solid Waste Management
Ernest Dickerson, Pickwick Landing State Park
Bruce Ragon, Knoxville EFO, Water Pollution Control
Margaret Waggoner, Edgar Evins State Park

35 Years

Jim Poff, Water Supply

Times and Trails is published monthly by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Phil Bredesen, Governor
 Jim Fyke, Commissioner

Paul Sloan, Deputy Commissioner
 Larry Lance, Assistant Commissioner, Finance and Business Services
 Mike Carlton, Assistant Commissioner, Parks and Conservation/Operations
 Andy Lyon, Assistant Commissioner, Parks Hospitality Services and Special Events
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